

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

UNCLAS ANKARA 2547

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT OPPORTUNITY: NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

BEIRUT FOR TRDC

REF: A) ANKARA 9922, 12/28/73; B) A-84

1. EMBASSY TOLD BY KUTUKCUOGLY, CHIEF NUCLEAR ENERGY DEPARTMENT OF TEK (TURKISH ELECTRIC AUTHORITY) THAT EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS FOR CONSULTING ENGINEERING SERVICES COMPLETED NZY TEK TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AND RECOMMENDATIONS SENT TO TEK BOARD WHICH SHOULD MAKE DECISION WITHIN WEEK TO TEN DAYS. KUTUKCUOGLU WOULD NOT REVEAL RECOMMENDED LISTING POSITION OF COMPETING CONSULTING FIRMS. HE DID STATE THAT WEIGHT WAS GIVEN TO CONSULTANTS THAT HAD EXPERIENCE IN NATURAL URANIUM HEAVY WATER SYSTEM BUT ADDED THAT TEK WANTED FIRM WITH BALANCED EXPERIENCE IN ALL SYSTEMS (BASICALLY HEAVY WATER AND ENRICHED FUEL LIGHT WATER AND GAS COOLED SYSTEMS). THERE WAS IMPLICATION THAT AMERICAN CONSULTANTS DID NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT EXPERIENCE HEAVY WATER SYSTEM. KUTUKCUOGLU STATED THAT GOT OFFICIALS PARTICULARLY GOT ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION IN LINE WITH GOVERNMENT'S DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES WANTED IF POSSIBLE TO USE SYSTEM OFFERING BEST PROSPECT OF DEVELOPING PROCESSING INDUSTRY IN TURKEY, I.E., NATURAL URANIUM AND THEREFORE HEAVY WATER SYSTEM (SUBSEQUENTLY ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION SECRETARY GENERAL, IBRAHIM DERINER, TOLD EMBASSY THAT AEC HAS NO PRDETERMINED OPINION FAVORING USE OF NATURAL

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URANIUM BUT DOES SUPPORT FULL STUDY BOTH SYSTEMS TO DETERMINE

WHICH BEST FOR TURKEY).

2. IT SEEMS THAT GOT HAS NOT MADE FINAL DETERMINATION YET ON USE OF NATURAL URANIUM BUT WOULD PREFER THIS SYSTEM IF IT CAN BE SHOWN THAT HEAVY WATER SYSTEM TECHNICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY BETTER THAN LIGHT WATER SYSTEM USING ENRICHED FUEL. BECAUSE THIS INCLINATION TO BE AS FAR AS POSSIBLE SELF-RELIANT FOR NUCLEAR FUEL, THERE SEEMS OBVIOUS TENDENCY IN TEK TO FAVOR CONSULTING FIRM WITH HEAVY WATER EXPERIENCE. BURNS AND ROE TURKISH REPRESENTATIVE OF OPINION THAT AMERICAN FIRM WILL NOT WIN CONTRACT WHICH MORE LIKELY GO TO FRENCH CONSORTIUM SERETE OR OTHER CONSORTIUM WITH MORE HEAVY WATER SYSTEM EXPERIENCE.

3. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING CABLED DATA THAT MIGHT BE USED IN CONVERSATIONS WITH GOT OFFICIALS A) SUPPORT OF LIGHT WATER SYSTEM VS. HEAVY WATER; B) AGAINST USE OF NATURAL URANIUM REACTORS; C) SUPPORT OF U.S. CONSULTING FIRMS (PARTICULARLY BURNS AND ROE WITH MOTOR COLUMBUS AND FICHTNER; EBASCO SERVICES INC.; AND GILBERT ASS. WHICH IN CONSORTIUM WITH UKAEA AND ASSOC. NUCLEAR SERVICES (U.K.)) BROAD EXPERIENCE ALL TYPES NUCLEAR POWER SYSTEMS.

4. EMBASSY WOULD CONSIDER IT MOST HELPFULIF USAEC TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVE COULD VISIT TURKEY SOONEST TO DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH TEK AND AEC OFFICIALS. PLEASE COMMENT ASAP.
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